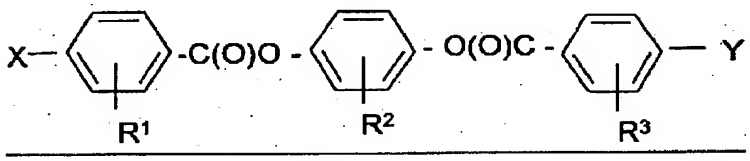
Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 76~~ A method for producing a blend comprising randomly substituted mesogens, said method comprising:

providing one or more platform molecules have the following general structure:



wherein

X comprises a terminal functionality and Y comprises a polymerizable group in about 50 wt% or more of said blend of randomly substituted mesogens, and at least one member selected from the group consisting of X and Y comprises one or more spacer groups;

R^2 is a bulky organic group whereby, when both X and Y are reacted with polymerizable groups to produce polymerizable mesogens, R^2 provides sufficient steric hindrance to achieve a nematic state at room temperature while suppressing crystallinity of said polymerizable mesogens at room temperature; and,

R^1 and R^3 are selected from groups less bulky than R^2; and

independently substituting at least one member selected from the group

consisting of X and Y with a polymerizable group, thereby producing a blend of randomly substituted mesogens.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 76 wherein X comprises a terminal functionality and Y comprises a polymerizable group in about 60 wt.% of said blend of randomly substituted mesogens.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 76 wherein X comprises a terminal functionality and Y comprises a polymerizable group in about 70 wt.% of said blend of randomly substituted mesogens.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 76 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, ~~and~~ acryloyloxy alkoxy groups, and ~~methacryloxyalkyloxy~~ methacryloyxyalkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms and comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, ~~and~~ acryloyloxy alkoxy groups, and ~~methacryloxyalkyloxy~~ methacryloyxyalkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms and comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, ~~and~~ acryloyloxy alkoxy groups, and ~~methacryloxyalkyloxy~~ methacryloyxyalkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms and comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

8. (Original) The method of claim 76 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyloxy groups, acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, and acryloyloxy alkoxy and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, thiol alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, said alkyl moiety comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

9. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyloxy groups, acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, and acryloyloxy alkoxy and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, thiol alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, said alkyl moiety comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms

separate said oxygen or said ester group.

10. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyloxy groups, acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, and acryloyloxy alkoxy and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, thiol alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, said alkyl moiety comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

11. (Original) The method of claim 76 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

12. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

13. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

14. (Original) The method of claim 76 wherein said polymerizable groups are methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

15. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said polymerizable groups are methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

16. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said polymerizable groups are methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

17. (Original) The method of claim 76 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

18. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

19. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

20. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

21. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

22. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

23. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups,

halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

24. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

25. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

26. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

27. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

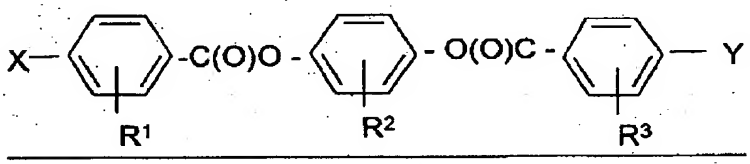
28. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

29. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 76 wherein said blend has~~ A method for producing a blend comprising randomly substituted mesogens, said method comprising:

providing one or more platform molecules have the following general structure:



wherein:

at least one member selected from the group consisting of X and Y comprises one or more spacer groups;

R^2 is a bulky organic group whereby, when both X and Y are reacted with polymerizable groups to produce polymerizable mesogens, R^2 provides sufficient steric hindrance to achieve a nematic state at room temperature while suppressing crystallinity of said polymerizable mesogens at room temperature; and,

R^1 and R^3 are selected from groups less bulky than R^2; and

independently substituting at least one member selected from the group consisting of X and Y with a polymerizable group, thereby producing a blend of randomly substituted mesogens having a T_c ~~is~~ of from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

32. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said blend has a T_c is from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

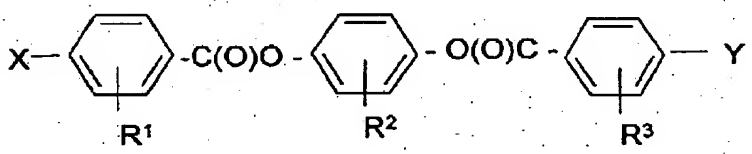
33. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said blend has a T_c is from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

34. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said blend has a T_c is from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

35 - 75. (Canceled).

76. (New) A method for producing a blend comprising randomly substituted mesogens, said method comprising:

providing one or more platform molecules have the following general structure:



wherein:

at least one member selected from the group consisting of X and Y comprises one or more spacer groups;

R^2 is a bulky organic group whereby, when both X and Y are reacted with polymerizable groups to produce polymerizable mesogens, R^2 provides sufficient steric hindrance to achieve a nematic state at room temperature while suppressing crystallinity of said polymerizable mesogens at room temperature; and,

R^1 and R^3 are selected from groups less bulky than R^2; and independently substituting at least one member selected from the group consisting of X and Y with a polymerizable group, thereby producing a blend of randomly substituted mesogens.

77. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein X comprises a terminal functionality and Y comprises a polymerizable group in about 50 wt.% of said blend of randomly substituted mesogens.

78. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein X comprises a terminal functionality and Y comprises a polymerizable group in about 60 wt.% of said blend of randomly substituted mesogens.

79. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein X comprises a terminal functionality and Y comprises a polymerizable group in about 70 wt.% of said blend of randomly substituted mesogens.

80. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, acryloyloxy alkoxy groups, and methacryloxyalkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms and comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

81. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, acryloyloxy alkoxy groups, and methacryloxyalkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms and comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

82. (New) The method of claim 78 wherein said polymerizable groups are

selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, acryloyloxy alkoxy groups, and methacryloxyalkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms and comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

83. (New) The method of claim 79 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyloxy groups, acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, thiol alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, said alkyl moiety comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

84. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

85. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

86. (New) The method of claim 78 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

87. (New) The method of claim 79 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

88. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein said polymerizable groups are methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

89. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein said polymerizable groups are methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

90. (New) The method of claim 78 wherein said polymerizable groups are methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

91. (New) The method of claim 79 wherein said polymerizable groups are methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

92. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

93. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

94. (New) The method of claim 78 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

95. (New) The method of claim 79 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups,

halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

96. (New) The method of claim 80 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

97. (New) The method of claim 84 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

98. (New) The method of claim 85 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

99. (New) The method of claim 86 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

100. (New) The method of claim 87 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

101. (New) The method of claim 88 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

102. (New) The method of claim 89 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

103. (New) The method of claim 90 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

104. (New) The method of claim 91 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.